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HAYDEN FROM WASHINGTON

## Ransom Cash

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The dicker now going on for ransom of 1,113 prisoners held by the Cuban government since the Bay of Pigs fiasco more than a year ago could prove a decisive feature of the U.S. election campaign terminating month.

Conceivably if the deal is accomplished, it will be hailed as such a triumph for the Kennedy administration as would touch off a Democratic victory at the polls.

But by all signs of today the result is more likely to prove the other way around—that is, consequent Republican gains greater than heretofore anticipated.

### U.S. Role Important

The question mainly at stake is the extent to which the U.S. government has involved itself in the negotiation, and whether or not the release, if accomplished, was or is to be paid for by U.S. taxpayers.

Quite evidently Dictator Fidel Castro is playing primarily for a propaganda triumph. Even as the negotiation was reported on the eve of success, Castro sent his stooge, President Dorticos, to the only platform in the United States he can command, that is the United Nations, to deliver a speech vituperative of everything American.

The sense of Dorticos' oration was that the United States is a weak, simpering nation, huge as to image but too frightened to challenge the Soviet arming of Cuba. Dorticos' purpose clearly was to provoke a war in hope that the United States would be destroyed by Soviet bombs, and Cuba thus placed on top as leader of an ultimately all-Sovietized American continent.

Meanwhile Castro characteristically has been alternately encouraging and then stalling the transaction by which it has been reported James Donovan, present Democratic nominee for U.S. senator in New York, had offered \$6 million for release of the Cuban prisoners.

Donovan had gained the fame that caused his selection as candidate for high office by negotiation last February of the deal by which Francis Gary Powers, pilot of the U-2 spy plane downed over Russia in 1960, was exchanged for Rudolf Ivanovich Abel, former head of the Soviet spy

net in the United States, convicted and imprisoned here since 1957.

Obviously, New York Democrats picked Donovan for his present candidature in hope that accomplishment of the Cuban prisoner release shortly before election would enable him to beat out Republican Senator Jacob J. Javits.

In light of events to date, the latter development appears greatly improbable.

### Issue in Congress

As Congress approaches adjournment since the raging issue in both House and Senate is as to whether the prisoner release proposal was initiated by a Kennedy, either President John F. or Atty. Gen. Robert F. and if so whether the ransom wholly or in part, was to be met by U.S. taxpayers.

Officially, the White House, Justice Department and Central Intelligence Agency have represented the dealing with Castro by the U.S. side as solely by the Cuban Families Committee for the Liberation of Prisoners of War.

But there is no doubt that Atty. Gen. Kennedy has been in frequent conference with lawyer Donovan, and otherwise the impression has grown that a considerable share of the proposed ransom is expected to be supplied from U.S. government sources. One element figuring largely in the deal, for example, is

other holder on earth.

Senator Williams (R-Del.) and Rep. Herlong (D-Tex.) joined vainly in urging President Kennedy to deny that the United States was committed to pay ransom.

Rep. Rhodes (R-Ariz.) recalled a telegram by Charles C. Pinckney, U.S. minister to France, in 1797, supporting "millions for defense but not one cent for tribute." The proposal at that time was ransom of U.S. citizens from Barbary pirates.

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